

any adjoining upland owner, issue a quitclaim deed to the owners of adjoining upland for the lands between the original meander line and the shore line, without making a survey.

SEC. 4. For the benefits of this Act the ownership of such adjoining uplands shall be determined as of the date of October 2, 1946. Any adjoining upland owner receiving a conveyance of lands under the provisions of this Act, who shall have prior to receipt of such conveyance conveyed or contracted to convey any part of such lands, shall through any conveyance made under this Act take title in trust for any such grantees and their successors in interest.

Acceptance of contributions.

SEC. 5. In order to facilitate prompt execution of the investigations, examinations, surveys, or other action which may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, the Secretary may accept contributions to be used for such purpose.

Approved October 20, 1951.

Public Law 186

CHAPTER 524

AN ACT

October 20, 1951
[H. R. 1764]

To authorize the Secretaries of the Army and Air Force to settle, pay, adjust, and compromise certain claims for damages and for salvage and towage and to execute releases, certifications, and reports with respect thereto, and for other purposes.

Department of the Army; Air Force.
Certain maritime claims.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretaries of the Army and Air Force, under the direction of the Secretary of Defense, are hereby authorized to consider, ascertain, adjust, determine, compromise, or settle claims for damages caused by vessels of or in the service of their respective departments, and for compensation for towage and salvage services, including contract salvage, rendered to such vessels, and to pay the amount of any claims so determined, compromised, or settled, and upon acceptance of such payment by the claimant, and not until then, such determination, settlement, or compromise of such claim shall be final and conclusive for all purposes, any law to the contrary notwithstanding: *Provided*, That this section, as respects the determination, compromise, settlement, and payment of claims, shall be supplementary to, and not in lieu of, all other provisions of law authorizing consideration, adjustment, determination, settlement, and payment of claims: *Provided further*, That all payments of claims made under this section shall be made out of applicable appropriations which are hereby authorized: *And provided further*, That the payment of any claim on which a net amount exceeding \$500,000 is determined to be due from the United States, or which is compromised or settled at a net amount exceeding \$500,000 payable by the United States, shall not be authorized by this section, and all claims determined, compromised, or settled hereunder at a net amount exceeding \$500,000 payable by the United States shall be certified by the Secretary concerned to the Congress.

Appropriations authorized.

Limitation of authority.

Damage claims in favor of U. S.

SEC. 2. The Secretaries of the Army and Air Force, under the direction of the Secretary of Defense, are hereby authorized to consider, ascertain, adjust, determine, compromise, or settle claims for damage cognizable in admiralty in a district court of the United States and all claims for damage caused by a vessel or floating object to property

of the United States under the jurisdiction of their respective departments or property for which their respective departments may have assumed, by contract or otherwise, any obligation to respond for damage thereto. The Secretaries of the Army and Air Force, for their respective departments, are further authorized to receive in payment of any such claim the amount due the United States pursuant to determination, compromise, or settlement as herein authorized and, upon acceptance of such payment but not until then, such determination, settlement, or compromise of such claim shall be final and conclusive for all purposes, any law to the contrary notwithstanding. All such payments shall be covered into the Treasury of the United States as miscellaneous receipts. The Secretary concerned is authorized to execute on behalf of the United States and to deliver in exchange for such payment a full release of such claim: *Provided*, That this section, as respects the determination, compromise, settlement, and payment of claims, shall be supplementary to, and not in lieu of, all other provisions of law authorizing the determination, compromise, or settlement of claims for damage to property hereinabove described: *Provided further*, That no settlement or compromise where there is involved a payment in the net amount of over \$500,000 shall be authorized by this section.

Receipt of payments.

Release of claim.

Limitation of authority.

SEC. 3. The Secretaries of the Army and Air Force, under the direction of the Secretary of Defense, are hereby authorized to consider, ascertain, adjust, determine, compromise, or settle any claim for salvage services rendered by their respective departments to any vessel: *Provided*, That all moneys received by the respective departments for salvage services rendered shall be covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

Salvage claims in favor of U. S.

SEC. 4. Within twenty days after payment of any claim determined, compromised, or settled under section 1 of this Act at a net amount exceeding \$3,000 payable by the United States or within twenty days after receipt of payment or settlement of any claim under section 2 or section 3 of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall file reports with the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives setting forth the nature of the claim, the vessel or vessels involved, the amount paid or received with respect thereto, the basis of the determination, compromise, or settlement and other pertinent facts: *Provided*, That during any war the reports required under this section may omit any fact or facts disclosure of which, in the opinion of the Secretary concerned, would be prejudicial to the national security.

Reports to Congress.

SEC. 5. Subject to the proviso of section 4 hereof, the Secretaries of the Army and Air Force shall report to the Congress, at each session thereof, all amounts paid by their respective departments or received by their respective departments under this Act.

Periodic reports to Congress.

SEC. 6. When the net amount paid or received in settlement does not exceed \$1,000 the authority of the Secretary of the Army or Secretary of the Air Force, as set forth in sections 1 and 2 hereof, may be exercised by such person or persons in the military department concerned as the Secretary thereof may designate.

Delegation of authority.

SEC. 7. The provisions of this Act shall not apply with respect to any claim as to which a suit has been filed by or against the United States and is pending at the date of the enactment of this Act.

Nonapplicability of Act.

Approved October 20, 1951.